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UNCLAS WELLINGTON 000027

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR SA/AR-NKROMASH AND EAP/ANP-DRICCI

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND: PLEDGING FOR AFGHANISTAN
COMPACT IN LONDON

REF: 05 STATE 226670

Post delivered reftel demarche December 18 to the New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID). Jane Coster, development program manager at NZAID, reported January 12 that the New Zealand government had approved NZ \$15 million (US \$10.4 million) in assistance to Afghanistan over the next three years -- or NZ \$5 million (US \$3.47 million) a year -- beginning in July 2006. The New Zealand government is expected to announce that assistance at the Afghanistan Compact in London on January 31-February 1.

BURNETT